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# THE LAITY

By SAM W. EDMUNDS, Pastor, Chicago (Summit) Illinois

## Toward an understanding of the relationship between the minister and members of a church

*"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people," 1 Peter 2:9.*

**H**E PEOPLE of the world are divided into many groups of people—clans, nations, tribes, cults, colors and offices of servitude; but of all the people there is none like unto the laity of the Church of God. These people have affected and will affect history of all times whether or not the rest of the world realizes or desires it.

The laity is an elected people. They consist of people of all the ages since the establishment of the Church. Their period does not last for the length of one generation, but they are an elect race lasting as long as the Church shall last. This race is elected or chosen of God. What a privilege to be chosen of God! Since God has chosen this people and has laid His hand upon them, all people must be careful how they handle, how they touch and how they speak about this chosen generation. What God has cleansed, let no man call common or unclean.

The laity is a priestly people. They, like the priest of old, take men to God; they are the servants of man. Their inheritance is not the possessions of this world, but to walk by faith through this land until God has brought them to the City where the Lamb is the Light. These priestly people are royal. All men are servants to their fellow men, but these people are not common in their servitude. They are royal by birth and are royal in the service they render to their fellow man. Persons of royalty are considered in their opinions and are constantly watched and protected, not necessarily because they are indispensable but because they are royal. The laity of the Church of God are just as important and just as royal as any king or his family that ever sat upon an earthly throne. Their opinions, their likes, their dislikes are to be revered, not because they are always right, but because they are a royal priesthood.

Every layman is a priest and they each one have access to the very presence of God. These priestly persons have access to places where angels walk softly. No man has the right to speak disrespectfully of them. They are no animals, they are not commoners, they are not riff-raff, they are not despised people, but they are priests, they are royal. If they cannot be honored because of who they are, they must be honored because of the office they hold.

The laity of the Church is single. They are not a people of many tribes, clans, groups or assemblies. They are

one nation. They all speak the same language; they all have the same constitution. This nation of people is not one of subversives, but they have one purpose and that is the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The devil would have us believe the laity is not single, that they do not know what they want and that they are one against another. If the devil could cause us to believe such, we would devour each other, but the laity is not only a nation but they are *holy*.

**I**N OUR GLOBAL political sphere every nation is recognized and is treated as equal with other nations. The Church should expect all people to treat the laity with the respect due any other nation, but we must also give the laity the respect to which they are entitled. We are all laity and all of us together constitute the body of Christ, this holy nation; surely we should love ourselves enough to give all the reverence due us.

Every nation has the right to determine its own form of government; every nation has the right to say what restrictions shall be placed upon it; every nation has the right to legislate its own taxation. This holy nation, begotten of a divine nature, spiritual in activity, is to be considered in all matters which touch it in any manner. Any vote taken of the laity is not a hush movement; it is not to be considered as a mock democratic move. Even as the laity should be led by the Spirit in matters of government, all who touch such matters should hold the moves of the laity as God-ordained.

To determine the singleness of this nation, let belligerents assail the Church and watch this holy nation solidify itself offensively and defensively. The laity of the Church are people. Often the laity is considered superhuman in our expectation of them, but subhuman when we desire to criticize them. They are human, yet they are peculiar. They have their sicknesses, but something moves them to believe God and they are healed. When they have labored hard all day they can come to the house of God, and there spend hours in Christian fellowship.

These laymen see something in the store windows they feel they would like to have in their home, but beyond their wishes they see the needs of their pastor, they see the need for improvements on church property, they see the need of the mission work. Where does their money go? The peculiar part of these people moves them to forget their own wishes and support the cause of God without reservation. When these people are forgotten the

(Continued on page 10)

# Man and missions

From the Foreign Mission Executive Secretary's Desk, 1880 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee—PAUL H. WALKER.

## DELIVERED FROM SCORPION STING

By O. F. F. Changuiou, South Africa

Let's talk about scorpions; not a very pleasing topic I admit, but rather interesting. The scorpion is a lobster-shaped animal about three to five inches in length, with a very poisonous sting in its tail. The habitat of this hermited and nocturnal animal is in hot and warm climates, yet the slightest rise in temperature, due to the direct rays of the sun on the scorpion, can cause suffering and even death. There are about 120 different species of scorpions in South Africa. The sting from a scorpion, which is exceedingly painful, is, generally speaking, not fatal, but cases are on record where death has supervened.

Another interesting fact is that a mature and young scorpion can live without food for thirteen and twenty-three months respectively. During this period, the scorpion is a coward. It shrinks away at the approach of almost anything. After such a long period without food, the scorpion is naturally weak, but this animal has a wonderful method of converting solar energy into physical energy. The sun's rays on the fasting scorpion immediately energizes it and creates an appetite in it. We can draw a fine lesson from this fact. There are many Christians who, like the scorpion, have been living for quite a while without spiritual food. The evidence of such a life is revealed very quickly: first, by their avoiding contact with God's children; second, by the spiritual weakness that they display. To these Christians, we would counsel them to come out of the holes of spiritual darkness and let the Sun of Righteousness shine on them. The moment His warm rays of light fall on them they will be spiritually energized. Just as it is the scorpion's choice to come out in the sun to be energized, so is it the choice of those who have wandered from God and have not had any spiritual food.

Here is a true story of the healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Portuguese, East Africa, we have a sister who is the mother of an evangelist. One day during the month of October last year she was walking along a pathway infested with scorpions. All of a sudden she felt a burning pain in her left foot—she had been stung by a scorpion. She immediately remembered the power there is in the name of Jesus, so kneeling, she called on that wonderful name for deliverance. The pain vanished. Four days after this incident she was in church.

She mentioned to the local secretary that at about the same time the previous year she had been stung by a scorpion with very nasty effects. For ten days she had been incapacitated, suffering from a swollen foot and in terrible pain. At that time she had used native medicines to try to counteract the pains. However, on the more

recent occasion when she was stung, she called upon the name of the Lord and her pain vanished.

We praise God for the wonderful healing power there is in the peerless name of Jesus. The simple faith which these natives have in the omnipotent name should be a source of real encouragement to everyone.

(NOTE: Brother O. F. F. Changuiou's articles are always appreciated. He hopes to be in the United States soon, and any state or church securing his services will be blessed. Contact the Missions Department for schedule. While Brother Changuiou is in America he will show mission pictures.)

## TUNISIAN ARAB CONVERT PREACHES

By Miss Margaret Gaines, Missionary, Tunis, North Africa

We thank the Lord first of all for the good month that He has given to us. We have had the chance to expand a little in this field.

Bechir, an Arab convert from a priesthood family of the Moslem religion, was baptized in water. He has been saved since the month of June. There were quite a few Arabs who witnessed his baptism, looking on from a distance. We are hoping that in the future some of these will accept the same Saviour that Bechir has learned to love and serve.

### Lost Job and Faced Lions

Soon after Bechir's baptism he lost his job because he had accepted Christianity. In spite of this his faith was not hindered. He accepted this as the will of God and started preaching the gospel. Bechir is about the boldest Arab in preaching to his own people that I have ever seen. He has opened a new mission station about twelve miles from here. It seems a good place to establish a mission, as there is no religion taught there. The people are Moslem, but they have no priest or church. Bechir needs so much help; he is often persecuted and oppressed, and his only help is here at the mission. I have realized fully since he has gone forth by faith to preach the gospel in the very faces of lions that he needs a man to whom to go for help, but there is none here.

### Y.P.E. Organized

This month we started a young people's meeting. It is a big blessing to the converts and even to those who are not converted. The converts had always taken a great part in the services, and since there were so few, I did not sense the need of the Y.P.E. so much. My awakening was the result of Bechir's ministry. He did very well, but his work lacked organization. Since in the Y.P.E. the young people have the full responsibility of the service, it is doing wonders in teaching them organization. The Y.P.E. is a great blessing to the mission here.

### A Car Is Needed

Since this new mission station has been opened and we have other new villages that are quite open to the gospel, also, we have found that our greatest difficulty is transportation. Although we economize as much as possible, walk where we can, and spend more time by using the cheapest means of travel, the travel expense is still quite heavy. We should be quite thankful if we could obtain a car. The cheapest car that we can get here is \$600. The new cars of the same model are \$1,500.

(If God lays it on your heart to purchase a car for Sister Gaines, it will be a great blessing to her and money well spent.)

As long as we  
are in the presence  
of Christ—regardless  
of our need—there is

# No Need to Depart

By H. L. (REX) TAYLOR, JR., Evangelist

*Matthew 14:16, "But Jesus said unto them,  
They need not depart; give ye them to eat."*

**J**HOUSANDS ARE STARVING while a few have enough to feed everyone. Multitudes hunger while some are feasting. These words paint a cruel picture, but do we ever stop to think that many people are literally starving for God's blessings while many Christians have the food to give them but fail to do so? We say the gospel is what the people of the world need, but do we give it to them?

Does a doctor tell a patient that he needs medicine without writing a prescription so that they may obtain that medicine? No! Then neither should we say that the people of our country need a blessing from God without doing everything within our power to help them receive that blessing. It is one thing to have food, and another thing to share it with others. There is no doubt that in our Pentecostal ranks we have the food for which this sin-cursed world is starving, but still we are prone to hold it back while they look for this food but never find it.

Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," Matthew 4:4. Therefore, if men are to live by the Word of God, and we are commissioned to preach the Word, failure to do so is to leave some poor lost soul starving for God's blessings, but not knowing how to receive them.

In our text the disciples, looking at the people, knew that because of their long journey they were tired and hungry. They said to Jesus, "Lord, these people are hungry. Let them go back." Christ assured them that the people did not have to leave to be fed. Many times we point the sick to doctors and hospitals, those in trouble to lawyers and courts; but why not point the sick, the troubled, and the lost to Jesus?

This is not meant to reflect on doctors in any way, but, friends, why travel for miles and spend many dollars



when Christ said, "They need not depart." Some time ago I overheard an afflicted Christian say, "If I could only get to a healing campaign, I could be healed of my afflictions." The campaign was several hundred miles away. To me, this was a pathetic statement. To think that there was no one within those hundreds of miles in which this sick person had enough faith to believe he could pray the prayer of faith! The Bible tells us that the gifts are placed within the Church. If this statement is true, I believe we do not have to go outside the realms of the Church to receive something from God. I believe if Christ purchased the Church of God with His own blood (Acts 20:28) He will provide for the needs of His church.

Some time ago a boy who was afflicted attended one of our churches. One night it was announced that he was going to take a long trip so that someone could pray for his body. He wanted everybody to pray for him that he would have a safe journey. Now let's be reasonable. If we, the Church, could have faith for his safe journey, why not have faith for his healing? The result was that after traveling for hundreds of miles, he had to come back disappointed; the prayer line was so long he was not prayed for. I am not claiming to have great power or any gift, but does not common sense teach us that if God is pleased with His Church He will answer the prayer of His church before He would the prayer of any one individual?

This is an attempt to show people that they can satisfy all their wants without departing from Christ and His Church. Christ said, "If you love me feed my sheep." We are all sheep—some lost, some sick, some discouraged. Ministers, it is our duty to feed God's people, teaching them that they have no need to depart from God to obtain any Christian desire.

# THE CROWD

By FRED BARKER, JR., State Sunday School and Youth Director of  
North and South Dakota

*Luke 18:35-43, 19:1-10. "And bearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant," Luke 18:36.*

HERE WAS a rumbling sound somewhat like that of a far distant thunder, but as it came closer one could detect that it was made by a crowd of people. Yes, it was the crowd. One man in particular noticed it; he heard the mingled voices; he could not see, for he was blind. When he asked what all the noise meant he was told that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. A sudden burst of hope came into his heart and he cried with a loud voice for Jesus to help him, but the crowd, rebuked this poor blind beggar. They seemed to say, "Away with your false hopes. Of course Jesus can heal, but we would have Him heal someone of importance, not a silly good-for-nothing beggar as you are." Despite their jeers, he cried so much the more and then the Master, as if in rebuke to an incompassionate mob, commanded them to bring the man in his rags to him. Jesus asked him what he would like that He do for him. Without hesitation, the blind man said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." The Lord Jesus gave the man his sight.

Why is it that the crowd did not want this very needy man to see the one Person on earth that could help him? We suppose that this crowd was made mostly of religious people. Today there are thousands of people who are termed religious who will say to the blind, as they cry with deep emotion, "Keep still, Jesus will not hear such as you." Thank God, Jesus will not allow it to be so! If the poor give a cry of distress His ear is ever in tune with that sound and He will come speedily to their rescue. There is not a cry, however small or distant from a heart that is in dire anxiety, that Jesus will not hear and answer.

Though the crowd may try to silence the cries and place Jesus on



a level where He will slight the distressed, yet He shall help. The Bible declares, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:7, 8.) The crowd had not learned that there is no respect of persons with Jesus. He had come to them as a servant, and the slightest call for service was His command, whether it came from a poor blind beggar or a king upon an earthly throne. The crowd was as blind as the beggar before the miracle. They could not see that Jesus was full of compassion for this man and for all those who were in need; neither could they see that God the Father would receive glory and praise because of the faith of the deprived, sightless man. Their hearts were cold and selfish. They had no vision burning within their bosoms for reaching a helping hand to the poor benighted sinners that they saw in the market places every day. They

failed to keep the commandment of God which is "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Yes, their superficial dignity and their beastly, horrible self-righteousness lifted them to such lofty realms that they had no time for a man who owned none of this world's good. They were blind fools! Could they not see that this Man Jesus was as poor as the poorest of men on the earth? He came to them that way, that He might feel the cold lonesomeness of a man ostracized without the bare necessities of life.

Today there are many people who feel that we should let our neighbor struggle alone. They are content to sit back and watch men wallow in their own blood and not offer a bit of service. They are the cheap critics who see good in a very few and are always the first to say, "He had it coming to him." They have no sympathy, they feel that the poor should be trampled upon, and the needy should be scorned. They feel that the poor, benighted souls of Africa, China, and the entire world of paganism should be left in pain and despair. They cannot tell you, even in close terms, the value of one lost soul. They refuse to give of their means to carry the gospel to the ends of darkness. They set themselves up as judges over the little and the poor and give to them the verdict, "Away with you forever."

THIS INCIDENT of the blind man's healing happened just outside the city of Jericho. But let us follow the crowd inside the city. It seemed that everyone in the whole country was following after Jesus. Now they entered the city and the crowd grew even larger. They wanted to see Jesus do the things that He had done in other places. These people, at almost every crowd that followed Je-

sus, were not believers in the things He taught particularly, but they wanted to see and be able to tell their friends that they too had been eyewitnesses to the miracles performed by Jesus. All Jericho surely had heard that He was coming. One man by the name of Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus but, because of his shortness of stature, he was unable to do so. The crowd was so large, and he was so small that he could not see anything of Jesus. Zacchaeus, unlike most of the others in the crowd wanted to see Jesus for a reason other than the fact that He could perform miracles. He wanted to see Jesus for whom He was. The majority of the crowd wanted to be associated with Christ only for the popularity they would receive. They hindered the needy rich man from seeing Jesus, but Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus because he needed Him. There was an empty feeling in his heart; although he was a rich man, he knew that riches had never and could never be his satisfying portion. He had heard of the man called Jesus, and he wondered whether he was really who the people said he was. Was this truly that prophet of whom Moses had written and who should come? Was this actually the Messiah, as the Samaritan woman had proclaimed Him to be, or was He just another impostor arousing false hopes in the hearts of the people? "If He truly is the Christ," thought Zacchaeus, "He can cool my heart which burns with condemnation. He can still this tempest that rages in my breast." But Zacchaeus was unable to see Jesus because of the crowd. He had to climb up into a sycamore tree to get to see Jesus.

There are many, like Zacchaeus, who cannot see Jesus for the crowd. The crowd boasts that they know Jesus; they go to the finest synagogues in town; they attend all the social gatherings of the church. They have Him so surrounded with ritualism and form, and so covered with their selfish righteousness that the down-and-outer cannot see Jesus. But praise God, Jesus refused to hide among the self-righteous robes of the religiosity of the day, and remain from either the heart-broken, despondent, hopeless ones, or from the harlots, publicans, thieves, murderers, and sinners. He wanted to see them. In spite of those who shudder and feel insulted by this plain, solemn, yet glorious fact, the truth remains that the kingdom of heaven is made of such.

**JESUS STOPPED** and looked up at the rich publican in the tree. More than that, He called him by name and said He wanted to go home with him. Jesus saw the faith in his heart and stopped and gave him what he needed. Jesus did not say, "I want to stay a little while at your house, Zacchaeus"; He said, "I want to abide with you." Jesus went to do something for Zacchaeus that would cause him never to forget that Jesus came to him. He went to his house and ate with him and said, "This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10, 11. Jesus had a love for sinners that the crowd could not understand; neither could they understand how He could call this publican—this thief—a son of Abraham. It was because there was faith in Christ in the heart of Zacchaeus, a faith which the crowd neither had nor could have until they recognized their need, and their Helper, Jesus.

### BLIND BARTIMEUS

Blind Bartimeus at the gates  
Of Jericho in darkness waits;  
He hears the crowd—he hears a  
breath  
Say, "It is Christ of Nazareth!"  
And calls, in tones of agony,  
"Jesus, have mercy now on me!"

The thronging multitudes increase;  
Blind Bartimeus, hold thy peace!  
But still, above the noisy crowd,  
The beggar's cry is shrill and loud;  
Until they say, "He calleth thee!"  
"Fear not, arise, He calleth thee!"

Then saith the Christ, as silent stands  
The crowd, "What wilt thou at my  
hands?"

And he replies, "O give me light!  
Rabbi, restore the blind man's  
sight!"

And Jesus answers, "Go in peace,  
Thy faith from blindness gives re-  
lease!"

Ye that have eyes, yet cannot see,  
In darkness and in misery,  
Recall those mighty Voices Three,  
"Jesus, have mercy now on me!  
Fear not, arise, and go in peace!  
Thy faith from blindness gives re-  
lease!"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The crowd would have Jesus eat and drink only with them, but he refused to listen to their selfish slander. He turned a deaf ear to the crowd and His compassionate heart went out to the man who was looking for someone to help him. They accused and reprimanded Jesus as He went to be the guest of Zacchaeus. It is true that many of the crowd had seen Jesus perform a miracle for a poor blind man in giving him his sight; they had marveled, and acknowledged that it was the working of God among men. They surely must have known that Jesus was in their city for the purpose only of helping those who needed help. Yet, knowing this did not cause them to be any less selfish and accusative; it did not make Jesus' every action good and pure or His every word true and undefiled. They could not see that they were making the same mistake that they had made outside the walls of Jericho, when some of them tried to silence the blind man. Again, they were trying to keep Jesus from one who was needy, and wanted Him. Who did this crowd want Jesus to see? At first they had shown their disapproval of the poorest of the poor—the blind beggar. Now they murmured against a rich man.

Dear Christian friend, today Jesus neither walks on the shores of Galilee nor on the cobblestone streets of Jericho. He lives in your heart and mine. The only feet and hands He has are those that belong to you and me. This is the only part that has changed since the day Jesus entered Jericho. The blind beggars are still on every hand crying, "have mercy," and the condemned thieves, harlots, and sinners are still trying to find someone who will cool their parched hearts. Jesus still wants to see them and to help them, whether they be your next door neighbors or the pagans of some uncivilized land. Every impulse of your soul that tells you to help those who are in need is the very heartbeat of Jesus Christ in you. Let us not, with the crowd, be guilty of saying, "Away with you, you poor sin-drunkens outcast. It is better for you to die in your stupor." Let us remember, but for the grace of God we too would be outcasts from the love of God. The heartless, indifferent spirit of the crowd must not rule our hearts. Let us do the work of Christ; take Jesus to all, and hide Him from none.

May God bless His Word to your hearts!



# The Church of the Living God

By W. H. GODWIN  
Pastor, Laurel, Mississippi

Divine—Militant—Triumphant

, Matthew 16:18b, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

## THE CHURCH DIVINE

**J**HE MEANING OF THE WORD divine is "pertaining to God, partaking of nature of God, God-like; heavenly; sacred; apparently above what is human."—Webster.

In meditating on the *Church Divine*, we not only want to think of the Church as pertaining to God, but we want to consider the Church as coming from God. Thus we are forced to conclude that the Church is a divine institution. The Church is called the body of Christ in Romans 12:5, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." This scripture is known as the "hub" of the Bible. The plan of salvation first began in God's own heart full of love for us. 2 Samuel 14:14b, "yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him." Matthew 16:16, 17, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed are thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Peter had not learned of Christ from the traditions of men but he had been inspired of God. We know Him to be the Christ because we have experienced Him in our hearts and lives. It is not enough to know Him by the traditions of men, but we must perceive Him because he has transformed us into a new creation.

1 Corinthians 6:20a, "For ye are bought with a price." In other words we are purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. Truly we are not our own, but we belong to Christ—He is the Head of the Body.

The Lord foresaw a need of a methodical arrangement for operation; therefore, He placed a system of government in the early Church. Acts 15:6, "And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter." The subject under consideration was circumcision, because there had been certain men who came from Judah and taught the brethren saying, "except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses ye cannot be saved." Paul and Barnabas and certain other brethren were sent to Jerusalem to set things in order; thus we see government working in the early Church.

1 Corinthians 12:27-29, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?"

Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." The word quicken carries the thought of being made alive.

1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." The Church that is divine is a lively, spiritual one which offers up

spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The Lord is coming back for the dead in Christ and not the dead in the Church. Ephesians 4:11, 12, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." The purpose of the pastor, teacher, evangelist, and any other worker for the Lord is building and making the Body of Christ strong. Ephesians 4:13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

From the building of Solomon's Temple, a beautiful traditional story comes to us concerning a stone rejected by the builders. A large stone was brought down from the mountains, but as it was so oddly shaped, the builders refused to use it in the walls of the Temple. After repeated efforts to dispose of it, eventually, it was rolled aside. One day a corner stone was needed and someone thought about the stone that had been brought down from the mountains. This stone, though of peculiar shape, was a perfect fit for the chief cornerstone—a head stone. Thus Christ—the Stone which the Jews rejected—became the Chief Cornerstone—the Headstone of our salvation! "He came unto his own and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God," John 1:11, 12a.

The *Church Divine* is a Church whose hands are not palsied, and whose legs are not lame. It is a vigorous Church with "spring in its heel" and elasticity in its step. It is truly a youthful Church—without spot or wrinkle.

#### THE CHURCH MILITANT

THE MEANING of the word militant is engaged in combat, struggle, or warfare. There are two types of warfare, offensive and defensive. To be successful one must fight the offensive battle. If the *Church Militant* is to be successful, then it must array itself against the world, flesh, and the devil. No wonder the Apostle Paul said, "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." The individual or group who takes a stand against the customs of the adversary, if he is successful, will certainly carry "marks of the Lord Jesus" for life.

Since we are engaged in combat, we, as Christians in the gigantic struggle, must have weapons. 2 Corinthians 10:4, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." Ephesians 6:11-17 lists the warrior's armour. If all of God's people would be faithful to their duties in the warfare and skillful in their use of the weapons mentioned in the following paragraphs, much would be accomplished in the combat against the devil.

Weapon number one is the word of our testimony. If God's people fail to testify for Jesus, then He has no witnesses. Because we are his witnesses, we must bear witness at home and to those with whom we come in contact.

A representative of a great opera company recently heard an evangelistic gospel singer. (He sings in the campaigns of a prominent international evangelist.) The

representative commented to the man next to him that the singer had the best tenor voice he had ever heard. When he contacted the gospel singer, he rejected the offer of an enormous salary in opera and sang for the man "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

Rev. 12:11a, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." Our testimony in church is fine, but Jesus wants us to bear witness of His saving grace to the lost and dying. When this weapon is used in this manner it is very effective.

Weapon number two is the Word of God. It is always a weapon that is powerful. This weapon is sharper than a twoedged sword. The word of God will banish fear, sorrow, and woe, and it will comfort the brokenhearted. No book searches and reaches the heart as the Bible does. It is man's blue print that advises him how to build his spiritual house. If we can persuade men to build their spiritual houses according to the Word of God, they will build upon the Rock and not upon the shifting sand.

Weapon number three is prayer. Every Christian realizes the value of this weapon. Prayer is the medium whereby we contact God in this warfare. We must constantly stay in contact with the Captain of our Salvation. Many times when the adversary of our souls is in close warfare, we can plead the blood of Jesus in prayer and we find that it is very effective in winning the victory over our common enemy. The new convert should never be instructed that there will be no struggle, but, instead, he should be instructed that by testimony, by His Word, and by prayer he can be an overcomer.

The Church is all the light the world has, yet sometimes the light seems weak. There is not enough darkness of unbelief in the whole world to extinguish one small candle of faith in God. The lighthouse is not the concern of the individual Christian. God will shine forth the light of saving grace through Jesus Christ from the great lighthouse and to the Church; as individual Christians we must keep the little lights along the shore.

1 Kings 22:3b, "Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is our's, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?" If we are to win the victory we must stir ourselves and fight the good fight of faith. The Church must pray until she has power to travail in prayer that she can give birth to sons and daughters and hear the cry of the newborn babes in the camp.

In considering the banners of the Lord we remember the wise man said "terrible as an army with banners."

*Banner of Love.* His banner over us should be love. The love of Christ constraineth us to keep in this combat for the right. Napoleon, Hitler, and other despots founded their empires upon hate and they lost. The Kingdom of Jesus is founded upon love and His true subjects will die for Him. At this time the Militant Church has a need of fighting grace instead of a need of martyrs.

*Banner of Volunteer.* Jesus is pleased for us to come and work in His vineyard. He wants to enlist whosoever will come. The word "come" is mentioned 640 times in the Bible. The Enlisting Officer, Jesus Christ, is calling for volunteers.

*Banner of Victory.* The divine, militant Church is going to be victorious. There are many types of battles to be fought—in the pulpit, pew, mission field, on the job, in school, in the home, or upon the streets. Many a fierce battle is staged within the heart of man! There is the Christian shut-in who has been active in times past, but

who now is confined to a bed or wheel chair by illness or old age. He has a great battle to fight. When he has tried us we should come forth as pure gold. More altitude Christians are needed. I am told there is safety in an airplane above the clouds; a low-flying plane is subjected to many hazards. Too many church members confine their vision to the mud puddles when they should be looking toward the majestic mountains—to the hills from whence cometh their strength. Christians must turn their eyes from the beggarly elements of this present world to the gates of that utopian city.

We have a Leader in this warfare that will never fail us; Jesus Christ is the Captain of our Salvation. The story is told of a drummer boy who lost his footing and fell into a ravine. Finally when no one came to the boy's rescue he began to beat the death march to attract attention. Even then Napoleon was not concerned though his men willingly would have gone after the lad if their leader had given the order. To those who fall in the Lord's battle, He is constantly saying, "Rise, let us be going." He is ever ready to help us fight an offensive battle.

Why is the Church a militant Church? There has always been a warfare between right and wrong. The devil is ever alert to challenge the armies of Israel. David had the Lord with him when he met Goliath; the Lord gave David the victory. So must we have the Lord on our side if we are to be victorious.

It has been said that every man has a thousand branches and a thousand roots; the branches reach upward to the heavens; the roots reach downward into the earth. So it is with our influence, we have an influence upon someone. If we fight a courageous battle, we will have a good influence in helping some struggling one to rise above the tide and live for Jesus.

In their own homes, many must suffer persecution from those they love because they are faithful to God and His Church; others must suffer opposition daily, while working at their various jobs or while going to school. There are others who are punished for their faithfulness to Christ by their God-hating governments.

Romans 8:35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

#### THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

THE DEFINITION of the word triumphant is "rejoicing for victory, exulting; victorious; graced with conquest."

The *triumphant Church* will be successful in right living, successful in soul-winning, successful in the conquest. The *Church Triumphant* is divinely graced with conquest. The Church that accepts its responsibility in the world and performs its duties as the Lord would have it do will be the Church that shall win the rewards. The reward will be to the faithful.

Rev. 3:10-13, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write

upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The Church that is successful in its endeavors has many occasions of rejoicing in this world; but the greatest time of rejoicing will be when the *triumphant Church* attends the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The greatest of all victories will be celebrated by the triumphant Church. Rev. 19:7, 8, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Complete deliverance will be the destiny of the *triumphant Church*. "A tent or a cottage, why should I care, they are building a mansion for me over there."

Malachi 3:17, "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." The *triumphant Church* will be composed of jewels. The Church is burdened and oppressed, and it suffers from so many various problems that it seems far from the dazzling state of a "jewel." The oyster should not be forgotten; the oyster that is never bruised does not have a pearl. If a grain of sand bruises the oyster, there is a pearl.

So the *Church Triumphant*, though one time oppressed and bruised, will be the Lord's in the day He makes up His jewels. The vision of the triumphant Church will not be marred and we will know as we are known. Entire perfection of the body will be realized. There will be no suffering, no tear-dimmed eyes, for the former things are passed away. Crepe will never be on heaven's door and there shall be no night there.

Eternity awaits the faithful Church that will be true to the Lord. The Lord is coming back for a Church who has not flirted with the world, whose garments have been washed in the precious blood of the Lamb. An overcomer, triumphant in eternity, not by good works but by His wonderful grace—*The Church of the Living God*. Amen.



#### THE LAITY

(Continued from page 3)

cause of God will suffer and the Church of God will go down in the scope of its activities.

These laymen are subject to sins, they are subject to the passions of the flesh; yet, the peculiar part is that they would rather have the things of the Spirit than enjoy the pleasures of sin. They seek not their own, but they seek for one another. They are peculiar in their zeal. Man's zeal is naturally limited to his own benefit, but these people exercise their zeal in doing good works for God and his fellow man. These people at one time were without mercy, but now they have obtained mercy. Their one purpose in life is to "shew forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Let every man be merciful to the laymen of the Church of God.

What moves LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY?

# revivals

BECKLEY, W. Va.—We want to sound a note of praise for the great revival which we have recently had. The Lord was with us in every service and a sweet spirit of fellowship, unity, and love was manifested in every service. A good number of folk were fasting and praying throughout the entire revival, and a number were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. Our evangelist was Brother Roy Dagnan, of Wallins Creek, Kentucky, who has had many years of experience in revival work. Brother Dagnan was surely a great blessing to our church and town. We were blessed by his preaching and his prayer life. We recommend him to any pastor and church. Brother M. A. Gifford, our pastor, is doing a good work.—E. R. Davis, Clerk.

DOUGLAS, Ga.—Recently we enjoyed one of the greatest revivals we have ever had. The crowds were large each night and the power of God met with us nightly. Thirty-five were saved, 20 sanctified, 8 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 16 added to the Church. The evangelist was Brother Walter Skutar, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our pastor, Brother Harris, is doing a wonderful work here.—Reporter.

EAST GASTONIA, N. C.—Recently we had a four weeks' revival with Brother James Poe Jackson as our evangelist. Eighty souls were saved, 17 sanctified, 18 filled with the Holy Ghost, and in the prayer line 100 people were healed of various diseases. God is richly blessing our church. In our regular services Brother G. C. Timmerman, our pastor, prays for people with cancers, tumors, and other diseases, and God instantly heals them. We are very thankful to have God's wonderful saving and healing power manifested in our Church.—Mrs. Kathleen S. Cline, Reporter.

HUFFMAN, Ark.—Recently we had a good revival conducted by Brother and Sister Williams, of Lepanto, Arkansas. God blessed in a wonderful way. One backslider came back to the Lord and another one was seeking the Lord. The attendance was very good. Even though the revival lasted only from Monday night to Saturday night, Brother and Sister Williams were a blessing to us.—J. N. Patterson, Pastor.

GILBERT, W. Va.—The Lord gave us a great revival with our fine District Overseer, Brother James E. Parrott. The Lord impressed the members of the church to have daily prayer meetings for lost souls two weeks before and every day during the revival. The meeting was advertised and we believed God would give us a large crowd. The revival began on April 4 in the Gilbert High School auditorium and continued through April 15. From

the very first night the power of God was present to anoint Brother Parrott to preach the Word and to pray for the sick. Sinners were saved, backsliders came back to the Lord, believers received the Holy Ghost, and many were healed. Twenty-one were saved, 12 sanctified, and 12 filled with the Holy Ghost. Great fellowship was enjoyed by the churches on the district. The local church has received great benefit from this revival, and the revival spirit is still with us. Two have been saved since the revival—one in Sunday School and one in the Sunday evening service. New people have received light on the Holy Ghost and are now attending the church, seeking this wonderful gift. There is no limit to the wonderful working power of God if the church will humble itself and pray.—W. J. Mullins, Pastor.

ESOM HILL, Ga.—Recently we had a seventeen day revival with Brother David Montgomery, of Shannon, Georgia, as our evangelist. Seven were saved, 5 sanctified, 3 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 3 added to the Church. Pray for us because we have strong opposition from Satan's forces who are seeking to destroy us here. At the present time we are in a building program.—Toxie Carroll, Pastor.

CHICAGO (SUMMIT), Ill.—We have just had a very successful revival conducted by Brother and Sister Robert O. White, of Mullens, West Virginia. Their singing, music, and preaching was a blessing to the Church which cannot be expressed in words. If the results of the revival can be given in numbers, 16 were saved, 8 sanctified, 6 filled with the Holy Ghost, 19 added to the Church, and 15 baptized in water. The last day of the revival saw all existing attendance records of the Sunday School broken. The ultimate results of the revival are still pending.—Sam W. Edmunds, Pastor.

UNIONTOWN, Pa.—Our revival, April 17 through May 1, was conducted by Brother Norman Seese, of Somerset, Pennsylvania. Under the mighty anointing of the Holy Ghost Brother Seese preached the Word of God and 19 were saved, 7 sanctified, 7 filled with the Holy Ghost, 20 baptized in water, and 6 added to the Church. There are others to be baptized in water and added to the Church. Our Church was a blessed wonderfully. Brother Seese, who stands firmly for the Church of God, will do your church good when you need a revival.—J. K. Morgan, Pastor.

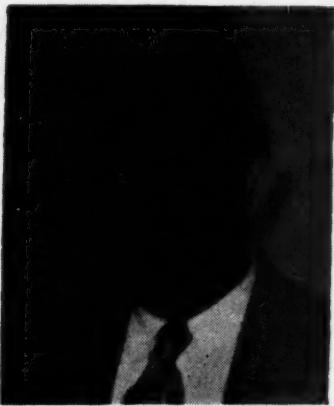
DANVILLE (NORTH), Va.—We are very happy to report that our church is on the move for God after a very successful three weeks' revival with Brother C. H. Elrod, of High Point, North Carolina, as the evangelist. The revival climaxed on May 1,

but the revival spirit is still prevailing and is expected to remain until Jesus comes. Forty were saved, 32 sanctified, 32 filled with the Holy Ghost, 15 baptized in water, 13 added to the church, and others have expressed a desire to unite with the Church. Great miracles and healings took place in almost every service. People were set free from demons, frustrations, and sicknesses just as in Bible times. Among the sick many were healed of sugar diabetes, arthritis, blindness, deafness, sinus trouble, and numerous other diseases. The attendance during the revival stayed at a peak because the power of the Lord was in our midst every night. Brother Elrod preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost and each night the Word was confirmed by numerous healings and definite blessings of the Lord. The gifts of the Spirit operated in the church. Our pastor, Brother John L. McPherson, is a very consecrated man of God and under his leadership the outlook for our church is great.—Rita McCraw, Reporter.

SEMINOLE, Okla.—Recently we had one of the greatest revivals in the history of our church. Thirty-six were saved, 16 sanctified, 15 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 18 baptized in water. At times there was not room to seat all the people who came to the revival. Brother Boyanton, of Weatherford, Texas, was the evangelist. We recommend Brother Boyanton to any church.—Bertis N. Miles, Pastor.

MCCOLL, S. C.—We truly thank God for the wonderful revival that has swept through McColl, South Carolina. The power of God was manifested in a great way for three weeks, and our church was filled to capacity every night. We feel that our evangelist, Brother James Poe Jackson, of Hixson, Tennessee, was sent to us by our blessed Lord. Praise His holy name! Many were healed of different diseases. Eighty-five were saved, 52 sanctified, 52 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 33 added to the Church. We had wonderful cooperation from other churches. The revival spirit still continues in our regular services. We praise God for our wonderful pastor, Brother F. D. Black, who is a God-called man.—Church reporters.

CORBIN, Ky.—We are progressing nicely in every department under the leadership of Brother and Sister Clement Peters, our pastor and his wife. We have just had a revival with Brother Peters doing the preaching. There were some outstanding healings, and the Holy Ghost moved in the services. Six were saved. During the revival we paid our state quota in full. A great spirit of love, unity, and fellowship prevails among the saints, and we are expecting greater things in the future.—Emily Alwin, Reporter.



MEMPHIS, Tenn.—For twenty-five years I had a choking in my throat when I ate, and it seemed that my food would hardly go down. Because of this I did not want to eat in front of company for fear of gagging. About three months ago on a Sunday night, Brother John Meares put his hand on my throat and prayed for me to be able to eat without any trouble. I thought he was going to choke me to death as he was praying for me. About one o'clock Monday morning I woke up and vomited up something that looked like the white of an egg that had been cooked. It was as large as a half-dollar and had roots. Since that time I have had no trouble eating. I am so thankful for this healing.—T. G. Vaughters. Attested by John L. Meares, Pastor.



MEMPHIS, Tenn.—My baby, who is now about three months old, was born with the tract from her stomach to her intestine grown together, thus making it impossible for her to take her milk without throwing it up. We took her to the best doctors in the Mid-south, and they said an immedi-

## Healing

ate operation was necessary. I told my wife that I knew the Lord could heal our baby. We took her to Brother John Meares one Sunday morning for prayer, and since then she has been able to take her milk without vomiting. She was literally skin and bones, but after prayer she gained two pounds the very first week. However, after this healing the devil attacked her navel. It began to swell and became as large as a hen egg. She screamed from pain, and the navel looked as though it would burst if it were touched. We again took her to Brother Meares and the Lord instantly healed the navel, and it became normal. Our baby is in good health and is normal in every way.—E. M. Qualls. Attested by John L. Meares.

DAYTON, Tenn.—I am writing this message as a testimony of God's healing power. I had suffered several months with a severe hurting in my side before I went to a doctor, but it seemed as if I grew worse all the time until I could not walk without pain. The doctor said he thought it was cancer and advised me to enter the hospital at once for an operation as I was in a very serious condition. I had trusted God for several years for my healing, but at this time I was getting weaker all the time. I could eat very little and I could sit up but a short time because I suffered so much. Even though I went to the doctor I was still praying and trusting God to heal my body. I shall never forget how God so wonderfully removed the cancer, or whatever it was, from my side on Wednesday night. I had prayed all day and felt so sure that if I could only get to church that night I would receive my healing. When I was ready and willing to accept my healing, I received it. That night the voice of God said, "Go and receive your healing." When I walked down the aisle of the church and back, the work was done. That has been some time now, and I've never had a touch of the same illness since. I have been walking and working ever since. The reason we do not receive more from God than we do is because we do not obey God just as we should. Since I have received my healing, I have tried to look up and work more for God and His cause, for I believe we should obey. The Bible says that we should work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work. I also want to thank God for our church in Dayton and for the way He is blessing it under the leadership of our good pastor, Brother C. M. Newman. He truly is a man of God, and he preaches under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. We think that Brother Newman's family is one of the best families in the Church of God. We hope

they can stay with us until Jesus comes or calls for them.—Mattie Amos.



TORRANCE, Calif.—Some time ago the Lord appeared to me in a dream and told me that I could be healed of a vertebra that was out of place. It gave me so much pain that I could not sit over a half hour at a time without excruciating pain. I was living in Marked Tree, Arkansas, at the time. The Lord said, "There is a man in Memphis, Tennessee, by the name of John Meares that can pray the prayer of faith for you, and I will heal you." He showed me what he looked like and how the church that he was building looked. I had my husband take me to Memphis, and we inquired of a lady at the Mississippi Boulevard Church of God whether she knew a John Meares. She said, "Yes, he has just come here and started a new work." She told us how to get to his church. As we drove up, Brother and Sister Meares were just arriving at the church, and I said, "That's him." It was just as the Lord had showed me. He prayed for me and the Lord marvellously healed me. At the present time I have a good job in an airplane factory. I praise the Lord for making me every whit whole.—Mavis Strackner. Attested by John L. Meares.

DAYTON, Ohio—Last fall I wrote to the Publishing House requesting prayer for my body. The doctor said that he was pretty sure that I had cancer and kidney stones, also. When they gave me a cancer test and x-rayed my kidneys, there was no trace of either one. I am sure the Lord answered prayer.—Mrs. Ollie Cooley.

# CAMP MEETINGS

## 1955

STATE	DATE	PLACE
ALABAMA	July 4-10	Campground, Birmingham
ARKANSAS	July 4-10	Bald Knob
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	June 20-26	Tulare
COLORADO-UTAH	June 6-12	Methodist Campground, Palmer Lake, Colorado (H. L. Diffie, speaker)
DELAWARE-D.C.-MARYLAND	August 8-14	Campground, Hurlock, Maryland (Vep Ellis, speaker)
FLORIDA	June 14-23	Campground, Wimauma (Ray Hughes, speaker)
GEORGIA	July 4-10	Campground, Doraville
IDAHO	June 28-July 2	Baptist Youth Camp, Coeur d'Alene (Vep Ellis, speaker)
ILLINOIS	June 20-26	Campground, Benton
INDIANA	July 12-16	Austin
IOWA	August 2-7	Hickory Grove, Ottumwa
KANSAS	June 6-12	Cherryvale (L. H. Aultman, speaker)
KENTUCKY	June 13-18	Campground, Lexington
LOUISIANA	August 2-7	Monroe
MICHIGAN	July 18-23	Flint
MISSISSIPPI	June 14-19	Hattiesburg (Vep Ellis, speaker)
MISSOURI	July 18-23	Methodist Campground, Arcadia
MONTANA-WYOMING	July 11-16	Livingston, Montana
NEBRASKA	June 15-18	Omaha
NEW ENGLAND STATES	July 25-31	Appleton, Maine
NEW JERSEY	July 21-24	Pleasantville, N. J.
NEW MEXICO	Spanish July 7-10	New York City
NEW YORK	August 2-6	Carlsbad (C. R. Spain, speaker)
NORTH CAROLINA	July 4-10	Riverside Campground, Riparius
NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA	June 28-July 5	Campground, Charlotte
OHIO	June 6-11	Campground, Minot
OKLAHOMA	August 1-7	Methodist Campground, Lancaster (D. C. Boatwright, speaker)
OREGON-WASHINGTON	June 28-July 4	Campground, Chandler
PENNSYLVANIA	July 25-August 6	Woodland, Washington
SOUTH CAROLINA	July 4-10	Campground, Somerset
TENNESSEE	July 4-10	Campground, Mauldin
TEXAS	June 3-10	Campground, Chattanooga (Ray H. Hughes, speaker)
VIRGINIA	June 20-25	Campground, Weatherford
WEST VIRGINIA	July 18-23	Radford
WISCONSIN	July 1-4	Beckley (Earl P. Faulk, Sr., speaker)
CENTRAL CANADA	July 25-31	Wausau
WESTERN CANADA	July 5-10	London
		I.B.C., Estevan (J. Frank Spivey, speaker)

ITMANN, W. Va.—I am thankful for the healing power of God which has been manifested to me. I was completely deaf in my left ear and had been so ever since I could remember. I had been to different doctors and none of them were able to help me because I had gone too long. But thank God, I am healed and can hear well now which is something I had not been able to do before in all my life. I used peroxide, took several shots of penicillin and different kinds of medicine for my hearing, but nothing helped me until I came to the Church of God at Mullens, West Virginia, and Brother A. S. Worley prayed for me. It was there that God came on the scene

and healed me of my deafness. He also restored my eyesight as I could hardly see unless I wore my glasses all the time. Thank God, my ear and eyes don't bother me anymore for which I truly thank and praise God. I can't thank God enough for what He has already done for me, praise His holy name. He has done something for me that no other person could do.

The last time I went to the doctor for my ear was at the hospital in Williamson, West Virginia. Dr. R. A. Salton, who was my physician, told me I had only half an eardrum left and it was full of holes. God is causing my old eardrum to come out in pieces and is giving me a new one. I can

really hear well, and I know God has healed me completely. I do not doubt it at all because I can hear and see as I never could before. I know my Redeemer lives and there is nothing impossible with God for He said, "Seek and ye shall find." I am praying that this word of testimony will help others find faith and deliverance in God for the healing of their bodies because God said, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." So you that are sick and need to be healed, ask God with faith, believing, for He will hear you and do what you ask of Him. Pray that I will always be found doing God's will.—Mrs. Juanita Coleman. Attested by A. S. Worley.

CROSSVILLE, Ala.—I praise the Lord for healing a cancer on my face.—Reba Cagle.

NAPLES, Fla.—My four-year-old son who needed an operation was completely healed of a swollen spleen. Praise the Lord! He is now able to run and play like other children.—Mrs. Pat Walker.



### GWINN

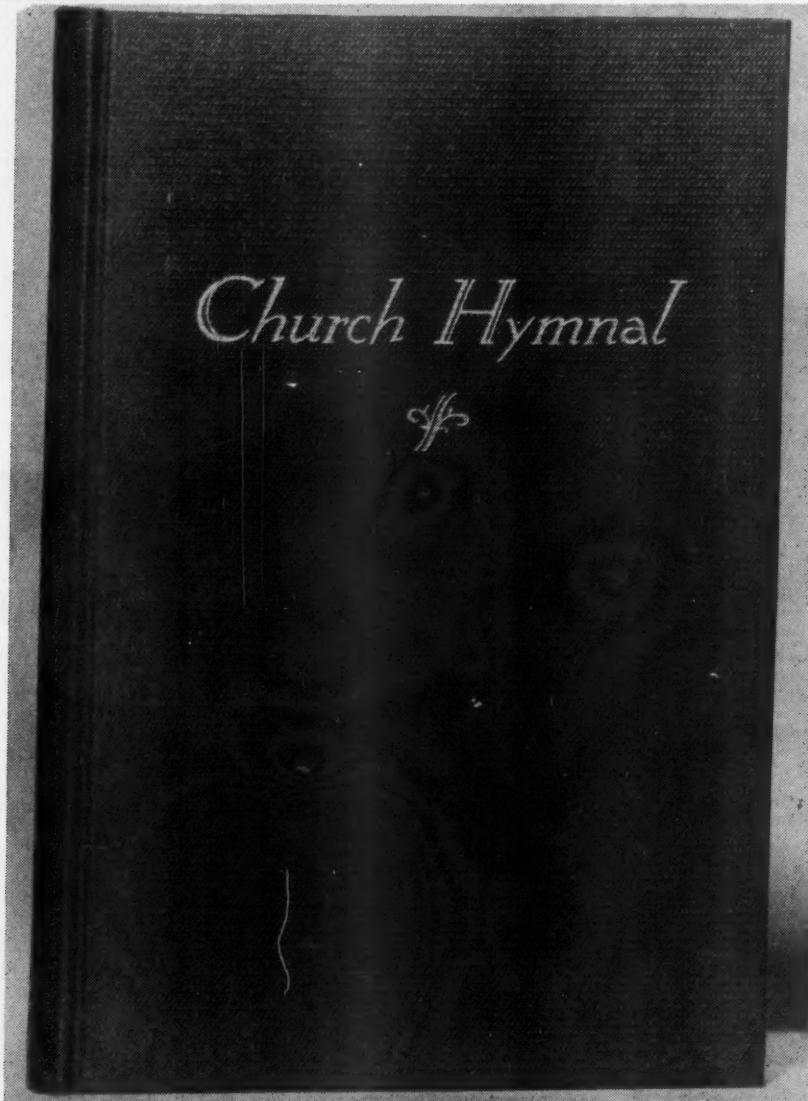
On January 31, 1955, God sent his angel and claimed Ben W. Gwinn for His own. It was sudden, but I feel it was just the way he would have wanted it. How wonderful to know he was ready! Eighteen years ago he gave his heart to God, received the Holy Ghost, and became a charter member of the Church of God in Switzer, South Carolina. He would have been seventy years old on April 23. His funeral was conducted at the Woodruff Church of God by Brother Oscar Volkman, Brother J. R. Brewer, and Brother Campbell. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anice C. Gwinn; 7 children; a number of stepchildren; 33 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild; and a host of friends and relatives. We are looking forward to the grand reunion day when all death and sorrow will be over.—Mrs. J. H. Chesney, his daughter.

### LEE

O. M. Lee, of Easonville, Alabama, departed this life on March 11, 1955, at the age of 73. Services were conducted by Rev. Clyde Hale and Rev. W. E. Hodo. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Ruby Walker Lee; six sons, Frank, Mack, Clarence, James, Ray and Warren Lee; three daughters, Mrs. William Harmon, Mrs. J. N. Harmon, Mrs. Randolph McElhenney; two step-children, Janice and Gerald Walker; three sisters; twenty-three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.—Mrs. Leola Lee.

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## **CHURCH OF GOD PUBLISHING HOUSE**

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# religious news



## PERON ASKS ARGENTINES WHETHER CHURCH MUST GO

President Juan D. Peron, at a May Day rally in Buenos Aires, declared that the Argentine people must decide whether the Catholic Church and the state should be separated or whether the Church "must go."

He said: "The problem boils down to a decision which must be taken by the people. And the people and their representatives must have the last word."

"If they decide that they (the church) must stay, they will stay. If they decide that there must be a separation, they will separate. But if the people decide that they must go, they will go," Mr. Peron said.

Eduardo Vuletich, secretary general of the Argentine Labor Confederation (CGT) told the rally earlier his organization "will support an amendment to the constitution to obtain what you have been asking for—the separation of the Church from the state and abolition of religious teaching."

Mr. Vuletich said the CGT will seek the change through its representatives in Congress "to destroy this triple alliance of capitalists, politicians and clergymen."

Eastern Europe has been evangelized with some 10,000 balloons carrying Bible portions and tracts printed in Russian, Czech and Polish, launched from a site in Bavaria near the Czechoslovak frontier. Officials of

the International Council of Christian Churches, which has sponsored the "Gospel Airlift" for the past two summers, expect to launch another 90,000 "Bible balloons" in the next four months. The project is supported by member groups in 45 non-Communist countries.

## BIBLE USED AS GUIDEBOOK BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Newspaper and magazine articles are increasingly being filled with startling announcements concerning important discoveries of ancient records of even more ancient civilizations. What does not seem to be making headlines is the fact that archaeologists are making use of an authoritative guidebook—the Bible—in their search for evidence of past civilizations in the Near East. More than one digger has been led to put his shovel down at the right spot because he first made a thorough study of the Bible narrative.

Throughout Israel there is a new interest in looking for relics of ancient times. Practically anyone who has been to school regards himself as an expert in archaeology, possibly because there is so much emphasis on Biblical studies in Israeli schools.

Many families have their private archaeological museums. These are collections of statuettes, arrow and lance heads, pieces of pottery, old coins and pieces of mosaic which members of the family have found from time to time.

Excavations now going on at Ramat Rachel on Israeli Jerusalem's southern border have brought to light a fortress covering an acre and a quarter of land. The fortress dates back to the ninth or tenth century B.C.

Seal impressions found on jar handles dug up at this site corroborate descriptions found in the Old Testament. The seals show winged scrolls such as those which served as the personal symbol of the old kings of Judah.

Scholars also are learning more about the early spread of Christianity in the Holy Land. When some settlers moved into a house on the Lebanese border and started clearing a pile of filth off the floor, they uncovered a colored mosaic design. It turned out they had stumbled on the remains of a fifth century church.

The Bible's reference to copper mines in the region between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Akaba led to the discovery of King Solomon's copper mines. They had been reopened and are being worked again for ore.

Archaeologists have unearthed 225 sites of ancient habitation in the desert country called the Negev. They were led to search there by chapters 12 and 13 of the Book of Genesis, which told them the area was not always a wilderness but was thriving with people in the time of Abraham.

Professor Nelson Glueck, an American archaeologist, believes he has proved the correctness of a story in Genesis 14 about a rebellion of a number of kings against the Ruler Chedorlaomer.

By tracing a chain of destroyed cities from Southern Syria to the Central Negev, Glueck showed them to be the remains of the civilization wiped out in Abraham's day.

Geneva, Switzerland, reports reveal that almost half the complaints of human rights violations received in the last 12 months by the United Nations concerned infringements of religious liberty. Following a closed session, the UN Human Rights Commission disclosed that of 5,982 complaints, 2,740 charged violations of religious liberty. The rest were mostly political. Such complaints are never published.

A bill aimed at the disestablishment of the Roman Catholic church from the State has been introduced in the Argentine Congress by Peronist labor members in the Chamber of Deputies. A two-thirds majority is required for passage of the bill calling for an election to choose representatives for a constitutional convention within six months.

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